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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Third session
6-17 May 1996
Agenda item 13

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRD SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Mohammad Nawaz KHAN

Chapter _____

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1 The Committee on Natural Resources held its third session at United Nations Headquarters from 6 to 17 May 1996. It held ___ meetings. The session was opened by Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Khan, the Chairman of the Committee at its second session.

2. At the 1st meeting, on 6 May, the Director of the Division of Environment Management and Social Development made an opening statement on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services.

3. Also at the 1st meeting, the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development made a statement on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

4. In accordance with paragraph 7 (b) (ii) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/235 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the Committee had two working groups, one on mineral resources and one on water resources. The Working Group on Mineral Resources held three meetings and the Working Group on Water Resources held _____.

B. Membership and attendance

5. In accordance with its decision 1992/218, the Economic and Social Council, having recalled General Assembly resolution 46/235, decided to establish, inter alia, a Committee on Natural Resources composed of 24 government-nominated experts from different Member States elected by the Council for a four-year term.

6. ___ members of the Committee attended the third session: Denis A. Davis, Vladislav M. Dolgopolov, Malin Falkenmark, Marek Hoffmann, Mohammad Nawaz Khan, Godfrey L. S. Leshange, José Manuel Mejía Angel, Dossou Barthélémy Otchoun, Hendrik Martinus Oudshoorn, Neculai Pavlovschi, R. W. Roye Rutland, Luis Fernando Soares de Assís, Natarayan Suryanarayanan, Zhang Hai-Lun.

7. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Czech Republic, Syrian Arab Republic.

8. The following regional commissions were represented: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

9. The following United Nations bodies and related organizations were represented: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

10. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization (ILO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

C. Election of officers

11. At the 1st and 3rd meetings, on 6 and 13 May 1996, the Committee elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

Chairman: Neculai PAVLOVSCHI

Vice-Chairmen:* R. W. Roye RUTLAND
Hendrik Martinus OUDSHOORN

Rapporteur: Mohammad Nawaz KHAN

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* The Committee decided that a third Vice-Chairman would not be elected for the third session.

D. Agenda

12. At the 1st meeting, on 6 May, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/C.7/1996/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water and mineral resources, and inter-agency coordination focusing on progress made towards achieving sustainable development.

4. Review of progress on water-related issues:

   (a) Regional and global information on the state of the world's freshwater resources;

   (b) Institutional and legal issues in water resource management.

5. Review of implementation plans for averting the freshwater crisis.

6. Future water resources management issues and the strategies and policies that the international community should be considering in response.

7. Inflow of funds and new technologies in the mineral sector of developing countries and economies in transition:

   (a) Complementarity between the roles and obligations of investors and involved parties of host countries considering the intrinsic value of mineral deposits and accrued benefits;

   (b) Socio-economic aspects of the privatization of State-owned mineral assets.

8. New global and regional approaches on mineral resource assessment and the role of the United Nations system:

   (a) Integration of existing information on mineral resource potential so as to develop a global understanding;

   (b) Interregional workshop to formulate a pilot project in developing standard approaches to the identification and assessment of permissive mineral tracts.

9. Developments in small-scale mining.

10. Environmental protection and restoration issues arising from mineral industry activities.

11. Integration of the issue of the sustainable supply of minerals into the United Nations processes for addressing Agenda 21.

12. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Committee.

13. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its third session.

E. Documentation

13. The documents before the Commission at its third session are listed in the annex to the present report [annex to be included].